FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT: YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE**

GOVERNOR JENNIFER GRANHOLM DECLARES FEBRUARY 1st THROUGH THE 7TH AS NOAA WEATHER RADIO ALL HAZARDS AWARENESS WEEK IN MICHIGAN

Governor Jennifer Granholm has issued an executive declaration in observance of February 1st through the 7th as NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Awareness Week in Michigan. In conjunction with National Weather Service offices serving Michigan, this is the 11th annual NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Awareness Week in the state.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards is a service provided by the National Weather Service. It provides continuous broadcasts of the latest weather information and forecasts from your local National Weather Service office. NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards broadcasts important forecast and warning information as quick as possible.

With NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, you will always have access to potentially life-saving emergency information. During severe weather, National Weather Service personnel can interrupt routine weather broadcasts and insert warning messages concerning immediate threats to life and property. A special alert tone can also be activated that triggers an alerting feature on specifically equipped receivers. In the simplest case, this signal activates audible or visual alarms indicating that an emergency condition exists within the broadcast area of the station. In the most sophisticated alerting system, receivers equipped with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology allow listeners to choose which counties and for what events their radio will sound an alarm for when official NWS watches and warnings are issued.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards, both natural and technological. Working with other Federal and local agencies, NOAA Weather Radio is an "all hazards" radio network. This makes NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards the single source for the most comprehensive weather and emergency information available to the public.

During the 2008-2009 school year, life-saving NOAA Public Alert Radios were sent to over 100,000 private, parochial, and charter schools including colleges, universities and licensed day care centers. Because "**America Is Safer When Our Schools Are Safer,"** the U.S. Department of Commerce (NOAA), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Department of Education joined forces in this important project to protect students and teachers.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards is the voice of the National Weather Service and is provided as a public service by the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It provides the timeliest forecast and warning information from your servicing National Weather Service office. This information can save your life! Please take the time this week to learn more about NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. More information is available from your local National Weather Service office, and through the Internet at the National Weather Service's NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Web Site: *http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr*

NOAA WEATHER RADIO ALL HAZARDS FACTS

- NOAA Weather Radio Broadcasts:
  - NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards, both natural and technological
  - NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards is a round-the-clock source of weather. Routine weather information is normally repeated every 4 to 6 minutes, and is updated at least once an hour.
  - The routine broadcasts are specifically tailored to the weather needs of our listeners within the service area of our transmitters.

- NOAA Weather Radio National Infrastructure:
  - Broadcasts from over 1000 stations across the United States.
  - VHF band, ranging from 162.400 to 162.550 megahertz (MHz). These frequencies are outside the normal AM or FM broadcast bands.

- NOAA Weather Radio Reception:
  - By nature and design, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards coverage is limited to an area within 40 miles of the transmitter.
  - The quality of the signal depends on such things as distance from the transmitter, terrain, and the quality of the receiver.
    - Generally farther than 40 miles for those on flat terrain, or on the Great Lakes, using a high quality receiver.
    - Generally less than 40 miles for those living in cities surrounded by large buildings and those in valleys with standard receivers.
  - If possible, a receiver should be tested in the location where it will be used prior to purchase.

- NOAA Weather Radio in Schools:
  - During the 2008-2009 school year, life-saving NOAA Public Alert Radios were sent to over 100,000 private, parochial, and charter schools including colleges, universities and licensed day care centers.
  - In 2006, this same program sent nearly 80,000 NOAA Public Alert Radios to public schools across America.
  - The pilot distribution of NOAA Public Alert radios in September 2005 included more than 16,000 public schools in the top 20 cities identified by DHS' Urban Area Security Initiative, including the City of Detroit.

- Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) is the primary activator for the Emergency Alert System.

- NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards capability is currently available on some automobiles, aircraft, marine, citizens band, and standard AM/FM radios.

NOAA WEATHER RADIO ALL HAZARDS EXPANSION

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards provides the quickest means of getting National Weather Service weather forecasts and warnings directly to the public. The present NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards network consists of over 1000 VHF transmitters that provide, directly to the public, a continuous broadcast of weather forecasts and warnings, natural and man-made disasters, and environmental hazards information. NOAA Weather Radio is an all-hazards warning radio.

Overall, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards covers over 95 percent of the United States population. In Michigan, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards also covers about 95 percent of both the Upper and Lower Peninsula. Through the help of local partnerships in Michigan, new NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards stations have been located near the communities of Crystal Falls and Copper Harbor in the Upper Peninsula during the past year. Additional NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards transmitters will be installed near Bad Axe, Marenisco, Munising, and Grand Marais later this year. Local partnerships over the past decade have established many NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards stations across Michigan including near the communities of Good Hart, Newberry, Manistique, Escanaba, Wolf Lake, West Branch, Mt. Pleasant, Sandusky, and Adrian.

To learn more about NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards coverage, contact your local National Weather Service office or visit the National Weather Service's NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Web Site: *http://www.weather.gov/nwr*